

**Amendment to the Claims:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A low Léw sliding load intermediate shaft in a motor vehicle steering column comprising  
a female member [[(2)]] adapted for slidingly receiving a male member [[(4)]] therein  
and at least one metal strip [[(7)]] fitted therebetween having an uneven contact surface,  
characterized in that said metal strips [[(7)]] are fitted between the male member [[(4)]] and  
the female member [[(2)]] and inside recesses [[(10)]] in a fastening cage [[(11)]] which, in  
turn, is arranged clamped to the external surface of said male member [[(4)]].
  

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2. (currently amended) A low Léw sliding load intermediate shaft in a motor vehicle steering column as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said cage [[(11)]] is  
clamped to the outside of the male member [[(4)]] by means of ~~protrusion-like~~ deformations  
on the lateral surface thereof.
  
3. (currently amended) A low Léw sliding load intermediate shaft in a motor vehicle steering column as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said cage [[(11)]] is  
injected directly on the male member [[(4)]].